

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-first General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 17-0794.01 Julie Pelegrin x2700

**SENATE BILL 17-123**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Priola and Zenzinger,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Hamner and Wilson,**

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**Senate Committees**  
Education

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101     **CONCERNING A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA ENDORSEMENT FOR**  
102     **BILITERACY.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill authorizes a school district, BOCES, or institute charter high school to grant a diploma endorsement in biliteracy to a student who demonstrates proficiency in English and at least one foreign language. The bill establishes the requirements a graduating high school student must meet to obtain the biliteracy endorsement.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-7-1009.5 as  
3 follows:

4 **22-7-1009.5. Diploma endorsement - biliteracy - definitions.**

5 (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
6 REQUIRES:

7 (a) "ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST" MEANS THE FINAL TEST  
8 ADMINISTERED AT THE COMPLETION OF A COURSE THAT DELIVERS A  
9 COLLEGE-LEVEL CURRICULUM IN A PARTICULAR WORLD LANGUAGE AND  
10 THAT MAY RESULT IN THE AWARDING OF COLLEGE CREDIT BASED ON THE  
11 SCORE ACHIEVED ON THE FINAL TEST.

12 (b) "INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE" MEANS A PROGRAM OF  
13 INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION OFFERED THROUGH A LOCAL EDUCATION  
14 PROVIDER BY A NONPROFIT EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION.

15 (c) "WORLD LANGUAGE" MEANS A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN  
16 ENGLISH AND INCLUDES AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE.

17 (2) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER MAY GRANT A DIPLOMA  
18 ENDORSEMENT IN BILITERACY TO A GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT  
19 WHO ATTAINS PROFICIENCY OR HIGHER IN ONE OR MORE WORLD  
20 LANGUAGES IN ADDITION TO ATTAINING PROFICIENCY OR HIGHER IN  
21 ENGLISH. TO OBTAIN AN ENDORSEMENT IN BILITERACY, A GRADUATING  
22 STUDENT MUST:

23 (a) DEMONSTRATE PROFICIENCY OR HIGHER IN ENGLISH BY:

24 (I) COMPLETING ALL OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS COURSE  
25 REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL WITH AN OVERALL  
26 GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF AT LEAST 3.0 IN THE REQUIRED ENGLISH

1 LANGUAGE ARTS COURSES;

2 (II) ACHIEVING A SCORE THAT INDICATES PROFICIENCY OR HIGHER

3 ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS PORTION OF THE CURRICULUM-BASED,

4 ACHIEVEMENT COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM ADMINISTERED TO

5 ELEVENTH-GRADE STUDENTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1006.3 (2); AND

6 (III) PASSING THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS ADVANCED

7 PLACEMENT TEST WITH A SCORE OF THREE OR HIGHER OR PASSING THE

8 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS PORTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL

9 BACCALAUREATE TEST WITH A SCORE OF FOUR OR HIGHER; AND

10 (b) DEMONSTRATE PROFICIENCY OR HIGHER IN ONE OR MORE

11 WORLD LANGUAGES BY:

12 (I) PASSING A WORLD LANGUAGE ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST

13 WITH A SCORE OF THREE OR HIGHER OR PASSING THE WORLD LANGUAGE

14 PORTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE TEST WITH A SCORE OF

15 FOUR OR HIGHER;

16 (II) SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING A FOUR-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL

17 COURSE OF STUDY IN THE WORLD LANGUAGE AND ATTAINING AN OVERALL

18 GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF AT LEAST 3.0 IN THE COURSE OF STUDY; OR

19 (III) ACHIEVING A PASSING SCORE ON THE WORLD LANGUAGE

20 PORTION OF A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED TEST THAT IS RELIED UPON BY

21 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

22 (3) (a) FOR EACH WORLD LANGUAGE FOR WHICH AN ADVANCED

23 PLACEMENT TEST IS NOT AVAILABLE, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

24 MAY IDENTIFY ONE OR MORE SUMMATIVE TESTS IN THE WORLD LANGUAGE

25 THAT ARE COMPARABLE IN RIGOR TO AN ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST.

26 THE DEPARTMENT MAY INCLUDE IN THE LIST A SUMMATIVE TEST CREATED

27 OR IDENTIFIED BY A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER.

1 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF SUBSECTION (2)(b)(I)  
2 OF THIS SECTION TO THE CONTRARY:

3 (I) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER MAY USE A TEST IDENTIFIED BY  
4 THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN PLACE OF AN ADVANCED PLACEMENT  
5 TEST FOR PURPOSES OF SUBSECTION (2)(b)(I) OF THIS SECTION;

6 (II) IF AN ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST DOES NOT EXIST AND THE  
7 DEPARTMENT HAS NOT IDENTIFIED A COMPARABLE TEST FOR THE WORLD  
8 LANGUAGE A STUDENT STUDIES, THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER MAY  
9 CREATE A TEST TO ADMINISTER TO THE STUDENT IN PLACE OF AN  
10 ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST FOR PURPOSES OF SUBSECTION (2)(b)(I) OF  
11 THIS SECTION OR MAY ALLOW A STUDENT TO SUBMIT A BODY OF EVIDENCE  
12 THAT DEMONSTRATES THE STUDENT'S KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORLD  
13 LANGUAGE. IF THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER CHOOSES TO CREATE A  
14 TEST, IT MUST CERTIFY TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE TEST ASSESSES  
15 SPEAKING, READING, AND WRITING IN THE WORLD LANGUAGE AT A LEVEL  
16 THAT IS COMPARABLE IN RIGOR TO AN ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST IN A  
17 WORLD LANGUAGE OR COMPARABLE TO THE LEVEL OF A SUMMATIVE  
18 ASSESSMENT ADMINISTERED AT THE COMPLETION OF A FOUR-YEAR HIGH  
19 SCHOOL COURSE OF STUDY IN THE WORLD LANGUAGE. THE STUDENT MUST  
20 PASS THE TEST AT THE PROFICIENT LEVEL OR HIGHER. IF THE LOCAL  
21 EDUCATION PROVIDER ALLOWS A STUDENT TO SUBMIT A BODY OF  
22 EVIDENCE, IT MUST CERTIFY TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE EVIDENCE  
23 PRESENTED DEMONSTRATES THE STUDENT'S ABILITY TO SPEAK,  
24 UNDERSTAND, READ, AND WRITE THE WORLD LANGUAGE WITH A LEVEL OF  
25 RIGOR THAT IS COMPARABLE TO AN ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST IN A  
26 WORLD LANGUAGE OR COMPARABLE TO THE LEVEL OF A SUMMATIVE  
27 ASSESSMENT ADMINISTERED AT THE COMPLETION OF A FOUR-YEAR HIGH

1 SCHOOL COURSE OF STUDY IN THE WORLD LANGUAGE.

2 (III) IF AN ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST EXISTS OR THE  
3 DEPARTMENT HAS IDENTIFIED A COMPARABLE TEST FOR A WORLD  
4 LANGUAGE, AND THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER CREATES AND USES AN  
5 ALTERNATIVE TEST FOR THAT WORLD LANGUAGE, THE DEPARTMENT MUST  
6 APPROVE THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S TEST BEFORE THE LOCAL  
7 EDUCATION PROVIDER MAY USE THE TEST TO DETERMINE A STUDENT'S  
8 LEVEL OF PROFICIENCY IN THE WORLD LANGUAGE IN PLACE OF AN  
9 ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST FOR PURPOSES OF SUBSECTION (2)(b)(I) OF  
10 THIS SECTION.

11 (4) EACH LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER THAT CREATES A TEST FOR  
12 A WORLD LANGUAGE OR ACCEPTS A BODY OF EVIDENCE TO DEMONSTRATE  
13 THE ABILITY TO SPEAK, UNDERSTAND, READ, AND WRITE A WORLD  
14 LANGUAGE SHALL PROVIDE A COPY OF THE TEST AND A DESCRIPTION OF  
15 THE BODY OF EVIDENCE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. THE  
16 DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE THE TESTS AND DESCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE TO  
17 LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS UPON REQUEST.

18 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
19 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
20 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
21 10, 2016, if adjournment sine die is on May 11, 2016); except that, if a  
22 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
23 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
24 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
25 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
26 November 2016 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
27 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.